

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR by Scott Deneen

As we celebrate Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead at Easter let us fix our hope firmly on Him and what He has accomplished for us. So the question is... what has God done in raising Jesus from the dead? Here are a few biblical answers.

1) Because of the resurrection of Jesus, death will never have any dominion over Him again. Romans 6:9 says: "For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him."

2) Because of the resurrection, Jesus intercedes for us in heaven before God. Romans 8:34 says: "Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."

3) Jesus' resurrection was the beginning and guarantee of our resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:20: "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." And 2 Corinthians 4:14 states: "because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence."

4) Because of the resurrection, He gives repentance and forgiveness of sins. Acts 5:31: "God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel."

5) God secured our justification by raising Jesus from the dead. Romans 4:25: "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification."

What life-changing, life-giving truths. There are these and ten thousand more blessings besides. Therefore, as the song goes:

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone; Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living, just because He lives"

And not only can we face 'tomorrow' but an eternity of tomorrows with Him as our Risen Savior.

Have a Blessed Easter,

Scott

Let's Celebrate Easter Together!

Thursday, April 13: We will have our Maundy Thursday Worship and Communion Service at 7:00 pm.

Sunday, April 16: Join us for a big Easter celebration! We will have a time of fellowship and refreshments at 9:45 am. (Sunday School will release early.) We will follow that with worship beginning at 10:15 am.



PASTOR STEVE'S CORNER

Monday night our family cheered as the UNC Tarheels won the men's basketball national collegiate championship. I know there are strong feelings in North Carolina about basketball teams with everyone passionate either for or against a particular team. For the record, I have personal investment in the UNC Tarheels as our daughter Hannah graduated from there, and my nephew Isaac is heading there this fall. Our excitement in the victory is justified by our personal connection.

This is a picture of how we should view Easter. We celebrate the victory that Jesus accomplished over sin and death when the earth quaked, the heavy stone moved and Jesus stood up and came out of the tomb. The reason we are excited about Easter is because we have a personal connection with Jesus. If we know Jesus as our personal Savior, Lord and Friend, then we have every reason to celebrate His resurrection. But without that personal relationship, the message of Easter is hollow and nothing more than a nice tradition.

Take the case of "doubting" Thomas. When he touched the nail scars in the hands of the risen Jesus, it became personal. *"Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'* Jesus said to him, *'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'*" John 20:27-29

Have you encountered the risen Jesus? Have you placed your faith in Him? If so then Easter is the most exciting event in all of history. And excitement is contagious. Invite your friends to meet our risen Savior. One way to do that is to pass along an invitation to our Easter service to someone who needs to make that personal connection to Jesus. And when that happens, they will share in the greatest victory of all time!

Steve



SPORTS MINISTRY UPDATE

SOAR soccer began in March with 241 players ages 4^{1/2} - 17 years old. Games are played each week on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. This is a great opportunity for outreach as approximately 700 people cross our campus each week. Come out and enjoy a game and the opportunity to fellowship with others in our community!

WITH LOVING THANKS

I feel so blessed to have such a wonderful church family. The prayers and other expressions of encouragement have been so appreciated. Please continue to pray as I began physical therapy again this week. Thank you for being such a blessing. God is good!!

SaDara Tilley

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Christian sympathies are extended to **Becky Foster** and **Claira Childers** in the death of Becky's grandmother and Claira's great-grandmother **Elizabeth Black** who passed away on March 24.

We are excited to announce the marriage of **Selena Farmer** and **Darin Little** on March 24. Pastor Scott officiated their wedding ceremony at Goshen Presbyterian Church.

Congratulations are also in order for **Helen Lieurance** for reaching the milestone age of **97** on March 29. Helen has been experiencing some falls recently so we also want to pray for the Lord's protection over her.

Liz Johnson is expecting to be released from CMC Main as this newsletter is being printed. Liz has been recovering from surgery on March 31 to remove a large mass located behind her bladder.

Barbara Rhyne has spent several days at Caromont Regional Medical Center with a complex of medical problems. She is being transferred this week to Stanley Total Living Center for what is expected to be a couple of weeks of rehabilitation.

NEWS FROM OUR CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



We are now accepting applications for our Fall 2017 Preschool. Classes begin September 6th for ages 1-5. We have limited spots available so register now!

The CDC would like to give a big THANK YOU to the men of the church! Thank you for all the hard work you do for the Child Development Center and the awesome job on the playground during a recent Work Day.

WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY... FLOODING IN PERU!

Disaster struck Lima and towns and villages all along the coastal region of Peru recently when unexpected torrential rain fell. The rain filled up the rivers to overflowing and flooded vast areas. The flood waters and mudslides have caused more than 90 deaths and destroyed 70,000+ homes. Crops have been demolished. Roads and bridges have been destroyed cutting off access to food and clean water. Massive relief efforts are underway. Pray for those of our missionary family who live in Lima – Paul and Marty Clark, Nelson and Lily Ayllon – and for all those in the area of the floods.

Birthdays to Celebrate in April

16 Courtney Greeson
Dorcas Murphy
Jacob Rhyne
Brad Skidmore
Charlie Stewart

17 Melodie Garrison
Hadley Rumfelt

19 Ellen Deese

20 Kale Baity
Brent Grice
Emery Huss

22 Garry Chambers
Nathan Chitwood

23 Karen Ensley



24 David Dunn
David Marsh
Charleen Schrum

26 Monnie Blackman
Joseph Deese
Lisa Grice
Percy Raleigh

28 Sharon Herd
Emily Revels

30 Selena Little

The Church Family is a twice-monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church
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Senior Pastor, Scott Deneen • Assistant Pastor, Steve Jessen
Worship 10:15 AM • Sunday School 9:00 AM



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